

Kaplan 711

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn).

2. (Withdrawn).

3. (Withdrawn).

4. (Withdrawn).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 where said second step comprises the steps of: A method executed by a provider of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising:~~

~~a first step of interacting with said user to receive an ID from said user and with a database to receive an ordered list of characters associated with said ID that were selected by said provider;~~

~~a second step of interacting with said user to receive from said user information responsive to requests placed to said user in the course of said interacting, including the sub-steps of~~

generating a predetermined number of random numbers variables;

for each random number so generated created in said step of generating

(a) requesting said user to provide a responsive string of characters that is related to said random number,

(b) receiving said responsive string of characters from said user, and

(c) flagging a number in said ordered list corresponding to said random number; and

a third step of authorizing said provision of service when said information received in response to said request corresponds to a subset of entries in said ordered list of characters that is associated with said requests placed to said user, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who provides said ID.

Kaplan 711

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 where said requests are communicated over a telephone, and said responsive string of characters is communicated over said telephone.

7. (Withdrawn).

8. (Previously Presented) A method of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising the steps of:

receiving a ID from said user;

accessing a database to retrieve N ordered lists of characters associated with said ID, where N is an integer;

generating a predetermined number of random numbers;

for each random number created in said step of generating

- (a) requesting said user to provide a responsive set of characters that is related to said random number said requesting, which provides said random number, forming a challenge,
- (b) receiving said responsive set of characters from said user, and
- (c) flagging a number in each of said N ordered lists corresponding to said random number; and

authorizing said provision of service when the set of responsive numbers received in response to said challenges matches a corresponding set of flagged numbers in any of said N ordered lists of numbers, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who is associated with the ordered list that matches.

9. (Withdrawn).

10. (Withdrawn).

11. (Withdrawn).

12. (Withdrawn).

Kaplan 711

**13. (Withdrawn).**

**14. (Withdrawn).**

**15. (Withdrawn).**

**16. (Withdrawn).**

**17. (Withdrawn).**

**18. (Withdrawn).**

**19. (Withdrawn).**